



NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

July 18, 2008

Via email: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Re: Nominee: Jenn Feinberg, Consultant, Natural Resources Defense Council

Dear Ms. Miller Henson and the I-Team:

NRDC is pleased to nominate Jenn Feinberg to represent NRDC on the Regional Stakeholder Group for the south coast region. We believe her dedication, passion for the oceans, experience with stakeholder processes, strong marine biology and policy background, enthusiasm for learning and listening, empathetic nature, and good judgment make her a superb candidate for the RSG. Her contact information and qualifications relative to the selection criteria follow.

Jenn Feinberg, NRDC Consultant

1) Ms. Feinberg brings scientific training and first-hand knowledge of the coast and ocean to bear on the MLPA planning process for the South Coast Study Region. She holds an undergraduate degree in biology, a master of science in marine biology, and is a certified SCUBA diver. Her work for the Coastal Commission over the past two years evaluating proposed coastal projects and managing the coastal planning efforts of municipalities between Santa Barbara County and northern Los Angeles County gives her direct experience of the southern California coast and ocean environment. Her education and work experience have honed her ability to use scientific information while applying a broad perspective that takes human needs into account. She is also skilled at using GIS to analyze land use and watershed information for proposed projects, experience that will have value in the MLPA process.

2) Ms. Feinberg has the skills and experience needed to capably integrate her direct knowledge of the northern part of the region, information from many local experts, and a south coast regional perspective derived from NRDC's long history working to conserve the coast and ocean resources of the south coast region. As a consultant for NRDC, she will coordinate closely with NRDC's Santa Monica and San Francisco staff, who bring extensive south coast regional experience on water quality, marine mammals, fisheries, ocean habitats and land-sea interface.

3) Ms. Feinberg and NRDC firmly believe in the value of expressing fundamental interests as a keystone to developing and expanding common ground among constituencies. She has had to deal with controversial projects in her work as a project manager and planner, and has demonstrated that she is a team player with principles and patience. She is committed to conveying the interests of a range of stakeholder groups and constituencies.

NRDC has relationships and shared interests with a wide range of groups in southern California with whom Ms. Feinberg will communicate regularly, providing information about MLPA and helping represent the views and concerns of these constituencies in the MLPA process. Those interests include conservation and water quality NGOs, surfing groups, land conservation groups, creek and wetlands restoration groups and wildlife observation groups. She will be on the lookout for underrepresented constituencies and will seek to understand their concerns. Note that we believe the process will be stronger if a number of these types of groups have their own representative.

4) Ms. Feinberg and NRDC strongly support collaboration across interests in the MLPA process, and will actively work to integrate the concerns and interests of a full range of constituencies. Interests and organizations with whom NRDC has worked collaboratively include fishing groups (e.g. United Anglers), diving groups, business leaders, aquaria, environmental justice groups, and educational and scientific institutions.

Ms. Feinberg has had extensive experience working in similar collaborative processes while working for the Coastal Commission and Bay Conservation and Development Commission as a permit, planning and policy analyst. An example is her work on a proposed landfill expansion in the Suisun Marsh, where she did an excellent job establishing an independent panel of scientists to review the project, bringing together diverse stakeholders and facilitating collaboration.

5) Ms. Feinberg will be able to reach stakeholders not attending the public meetings through NRDC's broad member base of citizens and coastal residents. NRDC is a national environmental group with over 230,000 members and activists in California (over a million nationwide) and a long history working for conservation of southern California's coasts and ocean. We are connected to stakeholders through a southern California NRDC membership network and through the personal connections and email list-serves of our Santa Monica and SF staff, who work on coast and ocean water quality, environmental justice, land conservation, fisheries and ocean habitat in the region. NRDC also has active communication networks with leaders in the business and entertainment worlds in southern California.

6) Ms. Feinberg is committed to completing all aspects of the charge of the regional stakeholder group. On behalf of NRDC, she will share our knowledge of the region for the refinement of the regional profile, and help evaluate existing

MPAs within the region relative to the goals of the MLPA. She looks forward to working with members of the RSG and other interests to develop alternative proposals for MPAs within the south coast region that meet the requirements of the MLPA, and will conduct outreach to constituent groups. She has relevant experience evaluating proposed coastal projects to ensure consistency with Local Coastal Programs and the Coastal Act, and making sure interested parties are included in the decision process. She will strive for a high degree of cross-interest involvement and support in crafting MPA proposals.

Current and Past Affiliations

Current Affiliations

Natural Resources Defense Council, Ocean Policy Consultant

Past Affiliations

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Santa Barbara (volunteer)
Dolphin Research Center, Grassy Key, Florida (research intern)

Past Involvement in Public Processes

NRDC has been involved in the MLPA process since its inception. As a sponsor of AB 993, we worked with other parties to help forge MLPA legislation that passed with strong backing. We have supported its implementation since 1999 when the MLPA went into effect. We participated actively in the development of the Master Plan, attended most RSG meetings for the Central Coast as an observer, and submitted an outside proposal in that region. We participated in the North Central Coast as an RSG member, meeting with numerous groups and individuals throughout the region to better understand and address their concerns. We bring a statewide as well as regional perspective to the planning effort.

Ms. Feinberg's involvement in related processes

Ms. Feinberg has been involved in numerous collaborative processes, sometimes as facilitator, through her work as a coastal program analyst. In that role, she coordinates with project proponents and permit applicants, state and local agencies, community groups and other constituents to ensure projects are consistent with local and state laws and policies and the federal CZMA.

Willingness to Commit

As a contractor for NRDC for the MLPA process in the South Coast Region, Ms. Feinberg is willing and able to commit the time for full participation, completing all aspects of the charge of the regional stakeholder group. She is an enthusiastic team player who looks forward to developing relationships with diverse

stakeholders and connecting with interested parties who cannot afford the time to serve on the RSG.

Organizations and Individuals – Communication

She plans to communicate regularly with: conservation and water quality-focused NGOs (Sierra Club chapters, Coastkeepers, Heal the Bay, etc); surfing groups (Surfrider Foundation); land conservation groups (e.g. Laguna Greenbelt, etc); creek and wetlands restoration groups; wildlife observation groups (e.g. Audubon CA and chapters); and leaders in the business and entertainment world. She will also make every effort to consult with sport fishing groups; commercial fishing groups (urchin divers, lobster association, etc); diving groups; business leaders; aquaria (Long Beach, Cabrillo. Birch); and educational and scientific institutions (UCLA, Scripps, UCSB, Orange County Marine Institute, etc)

Communication and Outreach Mechanisms

To communicate with our primary constituency, allied groups and varied interests, Ms. Feinberg and NRDC will use pre-existing e-mail list-serves, new list-serves designed to expand our communications networks for MLPA purposes, in-person meetings, phone calls, and NRDC's California and on-line member and activist newsletter.

Areas of Knowledge and Expertise

Ms. Feinberg has expertise in marine biology, and coastal policy analysis, planning, GIS, monitoring (she led a team that developed a new permit-tracking database to catalog all permit information and generate reports for funding purposes at BCDC). She is a graduate of the Florida Institute of Technology with a Masters of Science in marine biology. She has the ability to apply complex scientific information, while being able to effectively communicate it to the layperson. She attended MLPA RSG meetings for the north central region as BCDC staff, so is familiar with the RSG process.

We believe Ms. Feinberg has excellent qualifications for the RSG, and appreciate the opportunity to nominate her.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Garrison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Garrison" clearly distinguishable.

Karen Garrison

Co-Director, NRDC Ocean Program